

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the Proceedings of the 40th IAMSILIC Conference held during September 14-18, 2014 at Noumea, New Caledonia. Under the motto "Forty years of sailing: Connecting islands in a digital world" we were not only celebrating our Anniversary but also meeting far away from where the association was once born. Indeed, IAMSILIC has journeyed for forty years surfing the oceans and continental waters connecting five Regional Groups, sharing skills, knowledge and information on marine and aquatic sciences.

We will continue "sailing." This has been a wonderful experience that you may also live through these *Proceedings*. Presentations can be found here on Pacific networks and collaboration, on challenges and library cases of the region, on preservation of special collections, on new trends in data management and open access and, of course, on disaster planning and recovery. You will learn how colleagues manage libraries while coping with a wide range of geographic, political and technological constraints and overcoming difficulties with the help that IAMSILIC can provide. Talks by our keynote speakers, Dr. Moses Amon and Dr. Franck Magron, from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), introduced the audience on the problems and challenges of fisheries and dissemination of the information in the Pacific region catching everybody's interest and attention.

The presentations were enjoyed by almost 35 enthusiastic attendees from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Philippines and Vietnam, among other countries, with a total of 17 oral presentations, 7 posters and 2 panels. We are grateful to Mary Clare Ame, our local host and Coordinator of the Pacific Island Regional Group (PIRG), who obtained important regional funding to support participants who were then able to also attend a successful 2nd Meeting held on September 15th.

I personally enjoyed very much those informal moments when knowledge was flowing easily from senior members to newcomers so that they know better now how to get the best out of our Z39.50 Distributed Library and the Interlibrary Loan program; what Aquatic Commons is; and, thanks to Steve Watkins' contribution, "how to make digital content available where internet is not."

Several activities were related to our Anniversary - a birthday cake, posters, and talks on why it is so important to belong to this association. One of the panels was also dedicated to the 40 years of IAMSILIC, on our past, present and future. Remembrances and collected photos are now shared at our website page "Our Story."

The vision and passion that started forty years ago continues to drive this specialized librarian association into the digital world and into a world of collaboration. The

Conference was excellent because of the efficient work of our local hosts from SPC, the conference planning committees, our committed sponsors and the hard efforts of presenters, moderators and attendees. To them, my most sincere appreciations!

I hope you all will find these *Proceedings* interesting and motivating. [We would like to dedicate this book specially to those that sailed this Association from the very beginning!](#)

“May the future years exhibit the same growth, global outlook and enthusiastic involvement of all our members” - Judy Ashmore, Carol Winn, 1975.

And last but not least, you are invited to our next 41st IAMSLIC Conference that will be held at FAO in Rome, September 7-11, 2015, in conjunction with the 16th EURASLIC Biennial Meeting.